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5 February 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with William Woodruff, Counsel, Senate
Appropriations Committee, Re Agency Subcommittee
Matters

25X1 1. This afternoon I discussed with Mr. Woodruff problems regarding the handling of certain sensitive Agency matters with Chairman Ellender. Woodruff pointed out that Ellender had not been briefed on [REDACTED] He recalled that when Senator Russell was briefed on these projects he instructed that Senator Milton Young should be the only other Subcommittee member briefed, and, in the case of [REDACTED] Senator Russell had stipulated that he would approve the developmental funding, but would withhold judgment on approving the operation itself until the project had reached operational readiness.

25X1 2. Woodruff is seriously concerned about Ellender's possible reaction to [REDACTED] which he may deem excessively risky and provocative, but Woodruff feels that Ellender should be briefed, and says that unless he is, Woodruff himself will have to resign from the Committee staff, since he cannot be in the position of possessing information not available to his chairman.

3. Woodruff feels that Ellender should be briefed soon after the upcoming recess--probably during the week of 22 February. Woodruff feels that the briefing should be done by no lesser official than the Director himself. He is aware of Senator Young's suggestion that it be done in the presence of the President but Woodruff doubts this is a good idea. He knows of one case where Ellender called on the President in connection with a Defense matter and was greeted by the President with "come in Allen, I'm glad to see you. I know what you're here for and I'm going to turn you over to Henry" at which point Ellender turned his back and left the White House.

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4. Woodruff seems to think well of Senator Young's offer to be present when Ellender is briefed so as to try to keep things on the track. Woodruff says whether he himself should attend is entirely up to Ellender and Young. Woodruff feels that the best time for such a briefing might be in the evening or on a Saturday, but he cautions that if we want to arrange it on a Saturday we better do so before the weather gets good because after that Senator Young will be on the golf course every Saturday.

25X1 5. Woodruff is not sure how the Agency will fare with Ellender but is aware of no real problems so far. For this reason, he thinks we have to be particularly careful in handling delicate problems like

25X1 [redacted] However, Woodruff says there is no doubt of how Ellender feels about DIA and NSA, he thinks they both should be cut drastically, and Woodruff tends to agree particularly, where NSA is concerned. He predicts that within the next year or two the community budget will be down to around [redacted] 25X1

[redacted]
JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

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